

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 EB-03 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

SPC-01 OPIC-01 PRS-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /057 W* ----- 027571
R 311530Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9281
INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0145

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EMIN, EIND, PFOR, ECON, ETRD, GY

SUBJECT: BAUXITE--THE BIG LIE ON REYNOLDS

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 0141 (B) GEORGETOWN 0081

1. TOOK OCCASION REGISTER "MILD PROTEST" WITH FONMIN
S.S. RAMPHAL OVER RECENT ASSERTIONS BY MIN FIN AND MIN ECON DEV
THAT GUYANA'S CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS DUE, IN PART AT LEAST,
TO DRASTIC CURTAILMENT OF PRODUCTION BY REYNOLDS GUYANA MINES.
GAVE HIM FACTS AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM, I.E. PRODUCTION IN 1973
WAS 820,000 LONG TONS, A SLIGHT (3 PERCENT) DECREASE FROM
848,000 TONS PRODUCED IN 1972. STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT
REDUCTION DUE TO SHIPPING PROBLEMS ARISING FROM FLOODS ON
MISSISSIPPI AND THAT BECAUSE OF SOME RECOVERY IN MARKETS
REYNOLDS' PROFITS AND HENCE TAXES PAID GOG HIGHER IN 73 THAN IN 72.

2. RAMPHAL WAS PUZZLED. ASKED WHY MINISTERS WERE DOING
THIS. I SPECULATED THAT THEY COULD BE LOOKING FOR SCAPEGOAT
TO SOME EXTENT BUT ALSO THAT WE COULD NOT IGNORE POSSIBILITY
THAT GOG PAVING WAY FOR JUSTIFICATION OF TAKEOVER, PERHAPS
ON FEB 23 AS WE HAD DISCUSSED LAST WEEK. THIS SEEMED TO
WORRY RAMPHAL.

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3. RAMPHAL SAID WOULD CHECK WITH TWO MINISTERS, TRY TO

FIND OUT REASONS FOR DISTORTIONS AND SET THEM STRAIGHT ON FACTS.

4. ANY ADDITIONAL DATA ON REYNOLDS' PRODUCTION, PROFITS, TAXES DEPT CAN ELICIT WOULD BE MOST USEFL, ESPECIALLY AS OUR PRODUCTION FIGURES DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THOSE CONTAINED IN UNCLEARED WHELLER-REYNOLDS-OPIC MEMCON OF JAN 16. KING

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